

December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Principal's Update – Winter 2023

I would like to express my thanks to parents and students for what has been a very positive start to the academic year. Please find below information about the college and dates of key events taking place over the next few months.

Attendance

We would like to emphasise the importance of strong attendance throughout the year, particularly in the cold winter months.

Analysis in 2019 for sixth form colleges nationally evidenced the impact of attendance on student results. Nationally, for students with 95% attendance, 22% of all A level grades exceeded minimum target grade. However, for students with attendance below 85%, 48% of results fell below minimum target grade. All students should be striving for attendance levels at or above 95%.

Year 12 Parents' Evenings

Thank you very much to parents and carers that attended the recent Year 13 Parents' Evening. The remaining Parents' Evening, for Year 12 students, will take place on Thursday 26 January and we will write to parents with details of how to make appointments online.

January External Examinations and Controlled Assessments

A number of courses have external examinations or controlled assessments taking place in January 2023. These are critically important examinations that contribute to students' final grades and are of equal importance to examinations that traditionally take place at the end of the course.

Timetables for these exams are available to students via Cedar. Full details of external examinations and controlled assessments in January are included at the end of this letter.

Students and parents have already been advised of the significance of these examinations. Students that fail to attend at the appointed date and time should expect disciplinary action to follow, to be issued with charges for the cost of missed examinations, and that their places in college might potentially be withdrawn. Students should not expect that there will be a further opportunity to sit these January external examinations or controlled assessments and failure to attend might result in failing the course outright. A student missing the exam for medical reasons will be asked to provide evidence, such as a note from their GP.

Year 13 A Level Mock Exams

The second and final set of Year 13 mock exams take place between Monday 27 February and Monday 6 March (inclusive) and students will be encouraged to develop a 10-week revision plan after Christmas. These exams are important both because preparation for them supports long-term learning, but also because they help students identify strengths and priorities in the time that remains. There are 15 college weeks from the start of the spring term to the start of the final Year 13 examinations.

Year 12 Progression Exams

Year 12 students will sit larger examinations carried out in formal exam conditions, between Friday 5 May and Friday 12 May. These exams are intended to determine whether students are in a sufficiently secure position to continue with their studies at New College Doncaster with their current courses, in Year 13. They help students to prioritise their work and revision as they prepare for Year 13.

Every student will have a progression interview on Progression Day (Monday 19 June) to review how the year has gone and to consider progression into Year 13. We will review results in the Progression Exams as well as attendance, commitment and behaviour. In some cases, we may ask parents to attend a meeting in college following Progression Day.

The best way that students can prepare for the final progression exams is to ensure they have worked hard and revised throughout the year, in preparation for the regular monthly assessments. Students will be encouraged to develop a 10-week revision plan after February half-term.

Cedar

Thank you to parents and carers that are regularly logging into Cedar to track student attendance, progress, support and intervention. You can also use the system to directly email a student's progress tutor and teachers.

You can access Cedar here: <http://cedar.ncdoncaster.ac.uk/>

To set up your parental account, if you haven't already, visit: <https://cedar.ncdoncaster.ac.uk/auth/account/create>

For an introductory video about Cedar, visit: <https://vimeo.com/250277026/c94b7bdab5>

Adjustment to Term Dates

Please note that the college will be closed to students on Friday 27 January and Friday 23 June due to staff training days. As announced in the news recently, there will be an additional Bank Holiday on Monday 8 May.

Term Dates 2023-24

Term dates for next academic year can be found at <https://ncdoncaster.ac.uk/term-dates/>.

Please note that family holidays in term time will not be approved in any circumstances and will be dealt with via the college's disciplinary arrangements. We appreciate the support and cooperation of parents in ensuring that family holidays are consistently booked during college holidays.

Information for Prospective Applicants

If you have a child in Year 11 you may be interested in coming along to our third and final open event of the year. This takes place at the college on Monday 6 February 2023, 5pm to 7pm. The official deadline for applications this year is Friday 10 February 2023.

Student Support over Christmas

Whilst Christmas is a time of celebration, we recognise that for some people it can be a difficult time of year. External sources of support are identified at <https://ncdoncaster.ac.uk/mental-health-support/>.

May I finish by offering you our very best wishes for the Christmas break and a very happy 2023.

Yours sincerely



Brendon Fletcher
Principal

January 2023 – External Examinations and Controlled Assessments

<u>Qualification</u>	<u>First Entry</u>	<u>Y13 Resits</u>	<u>Exam Title</u>	<u>Pre-Release Date (if applicable)</u>	<u>Exam Date</u>	<u>Exam release details</u>
Business		Yes	Developing a Marketing Campaign	11 Jan 23 PM	12 Jan 23 AM	2h Part A and 3h Part B
Business Extended Certificate	Y13		Personal and Business Finance		17 Jan 23 AM	2h
Creative Digital Media Production Extended Certificate		Yes	Media Representations		20 Jan 23	2h
Creative Digital Media Production Extended Certificate	Y13		Responding to a Commission	12 Dec 22	12-13 Jan AM & PM	12h and 6h
Criminology	Y13		Crime Scene to Courtroom		3–6 Jan all week	
Health & Social Care		Yes	Working in Health and Social Care		16 Jan 23 AM	1h 30m
Health & Social Care Diploma	Y12		Human Lifespan Development		13 Jan 23 PM	1h 30m
Health & Social Care Extended Diploma	Y12		Human Lifespan Development		13 Jan 23 PM	1h 30m
Health & Social Care Extended Diploma	Y13		Anatomy and Physiology for H&SC		19 Jan 23 AM	1h 30m
Law (Applied)		Yes	Dispute Solving in Civil Law	12 Dec 22	12 Jan 23 AM	6h Pre-Release Task and 1h30m exam
Law (Applied) Extended Certificate	Y13		Applying the Law	12 Dec 22	12 Jan 23 AM	Set Task with Pre-Release and Exam
Music Performance Extended Certificate	Y12	Yes	Professional Practice in Music Industry	6 Jan 22	19 Jan AM 20 Jan AM	1 x 3h and 1 x 5h
Psychology (Applied)		Yes	Psychological Approaches		11 Jan 23 PM	1h 30m
Psychology (Applied) Extended Certificate	Y12		Psychological Approaches		11 Jan 23 PM	1h 30m
Psychology (Applied) Extended Certificate	Y13		Health Psychology		19 Jan 23 PM	2h
Science (Applied)		Yes	Principles and Applications of Science		17 Jan 23 PM, 18 Jan 23 AM and 18 Jan 23 PM	3 x 40m exams Students to be kept in supervision until 2.10pm
Science (Applied)		Yes	Science Investigation Skills		20 Jan 23 AM	Part A 45m, Part B 1h 30m
Sport		Yes	Anatomy and Physiology		13 Jan 23 AM	1h 30m

Sport		Yes	Fitness Training and Programming	12 Dec 22	11 Jan 23 AM	4h Pre-Release Task and 2h 30m exam
Sport Diploma	Y13		Investigating Business in Sport	12 Dec 22	16 Jan 23 AM	6h Pre-Release Task and 3h exam
Sport Diploma	Y12		Fitness Training and Programming	12 Dec 22	11 Jan 23 AM	4h Pre-Release task and 2h 30m exam
Sport Extended Certificate	Y13		Fitness Training and Programming	12 Dec 22	11 Jan 23 AM	4h Pre-Release task and 2h 30m exam
Sport Extended Diploma	Y13		Investigating Business in Sport	12 Dec 22	16 Jan 23 AM	6h Pre-Release task and 3h exam
Sport Extended Diploma	Y12		Fitness Training and Programming	12 Dec 22	11 Jan 23 AM	4h Pre-Release task and 2h 30m exam
Sport Extended Diploma	Y13		Development and Provision of Sport	11 Jan 23	18 Jan 23 AM	4h Pre-Release task and 2h exam
Uniformed Protective Services		Yes	Behaviour and Discipline in the UPS		13 Jan 23 AM	2h
Uniformed Protective Services Extended Diploma	Y13		Government and the Protective Services		11 Jan 23 PM	1h 30m
Introductory Diploma IT	Y12	Yes	Fundamentals of IT		9 Jan 23 AM	1h 30m
Introductory Diploma IT		Yes	Global Information		11 Jan 23 PM	1h 30m